

I worked as a paralegal for some of the best Texas litigation firms during my active addiction until I found recovery in 2015. I am a woman in long-term, self-defined recovery from severe mental illness and substance use disorder. My journey includes childhood trauma and abuse medicated with alcohol and meth resulting in psychiatric hospitalizations, houselessness, a broken marriage and three years without my older two children (now 25 and 17). Today, I am the Legal Systems Manager at Ending Community Homeless Coalition (ECHO), and an alumnus of Austin Recovery and Oxford Houses. I am a certified Recovery Support Peer Specialist and deeply dedicated to decarcerating those with mental illness and addiction-related crimes by helping define a long-term care continuum with access to low-barrier housing and healthcare, including recovery support.

What I'm most grateful for today is the self-forgiveness my recovery has allowed. I am now a mother to four children (2021 additions are aged 15 and 6), and I've been married to my husband, David for almost 20 years. It is David who, after entering recovery in 2018, modeled for me what passionate nonprofit work looked like—so I left the law firm life in 2023 and joined him in this important work.